IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Original) A method for distributing information in a computer network, the method comprising:

      dividing an electronic file into a plurality of pieces;

      receiving a request for a file piece from a first client machine;

      downloading the requested file piece to the first client machine;

      receiving a request for said file piece from a second client machine; and

      redirecting the request of the second client machine to the first client machine.

2.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

      downloading all file pieces to a plurality of client machines, wherein the client machines function as peer-to-peer servers for other client machines requesting said file pieces.

3.   (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein each peer-to-peer server stores a unique file piece.

4.   (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

      receiving a request for a file piece stored in a first peer-to-peer server which is no longer connected to the computer network;

      redirecting said request to a second peer-to-peer server containing a copy of said file piece; and

      removing the first peer-to-peer server from a list of available peer-to-peer servers.

5.   (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

      sending a digest for a file piece to each client machine which has received that file piece.

6.   (Original) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

receiving a message from a client, wherein the message indicates that a peer-to-peer server has corrupted a file piece;

disconnecting the peer-to-peer server responsible for corrupting said file piece; and

retransmitting said file piece to said client, wherein the retransmitted file piece is free of any corrupting content.

7.   (Original) A method for distributing information in a computer network, the method comprising:

requesting one of a plurality of pieces of an electronic file, wherein the electronic file is stored in a server;

receiving the requested file piece from the server;

receiving a request for said file piece from a client machine, wherein the request is redirected from the server; and

sending said file piece to said client machine.

8.   (Currently amended) A method for obtaining distributed information in a computer network, the method comprising:

requesting one of a plurality of pieces of an electronic file, wherein the electronic file is stored in a server;

receiving the requested file piece from a client machine containing a copy of said file piece, the copy of said file piece on the client machine being the result of a previous request for the file piece from the client machine to the server and receipt of the file piece from the server to the client machine.

9.   (Original) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system, for distributing information in a computer network, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for dividing an electronic file into a plurality of pieces;

instructions for receiving a request for a file piece from a first client machine;

instructions for downloading the requested file piece to the first client machine;

instructions for receiving a request for said file piece from a second client machine; and

instructions for redirecting the request of the second client machine to the first client machine.

10.   (Original) The computer program product according to claim 9, further comprising:

instructions for downloading all file pieces to a plurality of client machines, wherein the client machines function as peer-to-peer servers for other client machines requesting said file pieces.

11.   (Original) The computer program product according to claim 10, wherein each peer-to-peer server stores a unique file piece.

12.   (Original) The computer program product according to claim 10, further comprising:

instructions for receiving a request for a file piece stored in a first peer-to-peer server which is no longer connected to the computer network;

instructions for redirecting said request to a second peer-to-peer server containing a copy of said file piece; and

instructions for removing the first peer-to-peer server from a list of available peer-to-peer servers.

13.   (Original) The computer program product according to claim 10, further comprising:

instructions for sending a digest for a file piece to each client machine which has received that file piece.

14.   (Original) The computer program product according to claim 13, further comprising:

instructions for receiving a message from a client, wherein the message indicates that a peer-to-peer server has corrupted a file piece;

instructions for disconnecting the peer-to-peer server responsible for corrupting said file piece; and

instructions for retransmitting said file piece to said client, wherein the retransmitted file piece is free of any corrupting content.

15.   (Currently amended) A computer program product for distributing information in a computer network, the ~~method~~ computer program product comprising:

instructions for requesting one of a plurality of pieces of an electronic file, wherein the electronic file is stored in a server;

instructions for receiving the requested file piece from the server;

instructions for receiving a request for said file piece from a client machine, wherein the request is redirected from the server; and

instructions for sending said file piece to said client machine.

16.   (Currently amended) A computer program product for obtaining distributed information in a computer network, the ~~method~~ computer program product comprising:

instructions for requesting one of a plurality of pieces of an electronic file, wherein the electronic file is stored in a server;

instructions for receiving the requested file piece from a client machine containing a copy of said file piece.

17.   (Original) A system for distributing information in a computer network, the system comprising:

a dividing component which divides an electronic file into a plurality of pieces;

a first receiver which receives a request for a file piece from a first client machine;

a communications component which downloads the requested file piece to the first client machine;

a second receiver which receives a request for said file piece from a second client machine; and

a redirecting component which redirects the request of the second client machine to the first client machine.

18.　(Original)　A system for distributing information in a computer network, the system comprising:

a first communications component which requests one of a plurality of pieces of an electronic file, wherein the electronic file is stored in a server;

a first receiver which receives the requested file piece from the server;

a second receiver which receives a request for said file piece from a client machine, wherein the request is redirected from the server; and

a second communications component which sends said file piece to said client machine.

19.　(Currently amended)　A system for obtaining distributed information in a computer network, the system comprising:

a communications component requesting one of a plurality of pieces of an electronic file, wherein the electronic file is stored in a server;

a receiver which receives the requested file piece from a client machine containing a copy of said file piece, the copy of said file piece on the client machine being the result of a previous request for the file piece from the client machine to the server and receipt of the file piece from the server to the client machine.